

# Reports of racism in Ireland

Racism:  
see it  
send it  
end it.

www.iREPORT.ie





## What is the iReport?

The iReport is a human rights monitoring tool which takes the form of half-yearly and thematic observatories on racist incidents in Ireland. The iReport observatory compiles its data from information submitted by people who have been subjected to racism, by frontline anti-racist organisations, trade unions and other organisations that are committed to combating racism, and by the general public. It uses iReport.ie, an online racist incident reporting system which can be found at [www.iReport.ie](http://www.iReport.ie)

iReport.ie and the iReport are managed by ENAR Ireland, which coordinates a network of over 70 civil society organisations in Ireland working in anti-racism (see Page 6 and [enarireland.org](http://enarireland.org) for complete list). ENAR Ireland is the Irish Coordination of ENAR, the European Network Against Racism. ENAR Ireland and ENAR work to coordinate common civil society led responses to racism and racial discrimination at a local, National and European level. ENAR Ireland used to be called INAR, the Irish Network Against Racism.

iReport.ie was launched on 11 July 2013. This, the 13th and 14th quarterly reports, iReport Q13 & Q14, covers the half-year period 1st July to 31st December 2016.

To ensure the analysis of the iReport reporting system is in line with robust international standards of data collection and analysis, and for comparators with relevant international research, ENAR Ireland has partnered with Dr Lucy Michael, Lecturer in Sociology at Ulster University. Dr Michael is an authority on hate crime recording systems and on the impact of hate crimes on communities. She is the author of several works in the area including 'Hate Crimes against Students' (2013) and 'Securing civic relations in the multicultural city', (2009). She is a member of the British Society of Criminology, an Executive Committee member of the Sociological Association of Ireland, and the UK editor of the *Irish Journal of Sociology*.



13th+14th quarterly reports of iReport.ie

July-December 2016

# Reports of racism in Ireland

Authored by **Dr Lucy Michael** (Ulster University)

With thanks to **Inga Wojcik**







The launch of  
iReport.ie in  
Dublin on 11th  
July, 2013.  
At centre are  
comedian Tara  
Flynn (pink top),  
Dublin footballer  
Jason Sherlock and  
singer Maureen  
Aku Disu. Photo:  
Derek Speirs

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# About iReport.ie

iReport.ie is a fully confidential and independent, civil-society based Racist Incident Reporting System. It is used for human rights monitoring, in line with best practise as set out by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and the recommendations from the Council of Europe's European Commission on Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) 2013 report on Ireland. The report generates data that is compatible with the monitoring requirements of UN CERD, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), the ODIHR, and other international Human Rights bodies. As such, the system should be seen as neither an alternative to, nor an extension of, the criminal justice system's own recording mechanisms.

As a non-state monitoring system it fills the gap left by the reporting system of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Integration (NCCRI), which was closed in 2009. This system is embedded in a network of over 70 locally-based organisations and allows for locally gathered information to be fed into national data and analysed separately. While locally based and sectoral organisations retain locally gathered data, which they use to inform localised and sectoral responses to racism, the national data is analysed and compiled into half-yearly and thematic reports, and used to inform the public, support lobbying submissions, and contribute to a broader national conversation on racism.

iReport.ie is also a system which makes it as easy as possible for people to self-report racist incidents by using the online form. It gives a way for people whose voices are often unheard, to have those voices heard and to participate in

the national conversation on racism. To facilitate this, the reporting mechanism is designed to be as inclusive of all communities as possible, and one which strives to overcome many of the barriers to reporting that have been identified in ENAR Ireland's own research, as well as in other domestic and international research.

Barriers to recording include: A reluctance by people who experience or witness racism to report to police or other state bodies (our own research suggests that, for a variety of reasons, 5 out of 6 people would not report to Gardaí or official bodies); a reluctance to risk exposing oneself to further victimisation by sharing identifying details; a reluctance to engage in a lengthy legal or other process(es); a reluctance to use forms that use complicated technical language and other off-putting vocabulary and; a reluctance to use a reporting system that is lengthy and unwieldy. These barriers mean that people from minority ethnic communities experience racism which goes unrecorded and unacknowledged by the state and wider society.

To overcome these barriers the iReport.ie reporting form guarantees confidentiality, is short and easy to use, is written in plain English, and can be filled in anonymously, if the person so wishes. The system also allows for people to be supported in recording racist incidents by organisations working with those communities most at risk of racism. In addition to this, witnesses and by-standers can also report, as can third parties who have heard of incidents in their communities. In this way iReport.ie is a tool intended to help "Break the Silence on Racism".



The collage features a wide variety of logos from Irish organizations, including:

- Dublin City Centre Citizens Information Service**
- nasc** (The Irish Immigrant Support Centre)
- Doras Luimní** (Promoting and protecting the rights of all migrants)
- Irish Refugee Council**
- IRS** (accompany - serve - advocate)
- Community Work Ireland**
- National Women's Council of Ireland** (Comhairle Náisiúnta na mBain in Éirinn)
- Congress** (Irish Congress of Trade Unions)
- PSEU** (Public Service Executive Union)
- unite the UNION**
- INMO** (Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation - Working Together)
- SIPTU**
- USI** (Union of Students in Ireland - Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn)
- show racism the red card**
- ncp**
- Immigrant Council of Ireland**
- Dublin South City Partnership**
- Eden** (Equality & Diversity Early Childhood National Network)
- mabs** (Money Advice & Budgeting Service)
- Galway Traveller Movement**
- Louth Minority Ethnic Consortium**
- Ballyfermot Travellers Action Project**
- Roma Integration Association**
- Kildare Intercultural Action**
- Cairde** (Challenging ethnic minority health inequalities)
- kimmage DSC** (development studies centre)
- NO HATE MOVEMENT**
- nyci** (national youth council of Ireland - COMHAIRLE NAÓIÓIRÍ NA hÉ)
- siCCDA**
- ARN** (ANTI-RACISM NETWORK)
- fáilte isteach** (Welcoming Migrants through Conversational English Classes)
- third age** (Responding to the Opportunities and Challenges of Ageing in Ireland)
- AgeAction** (For all older people)
- crosscare**
- Kerry Travellers**
- Cork Traveller Visibility Group Ltd.**
- National Traveller Women's Forum**
- Mixed Race Irish**
- Rialto Community Network**
- SMASHINGTIMES** (THEATRE COMPANY)
- Waterford Traveller** (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT)
- 1895**
- CESCA**
- LIR** (anti-racism training & education)
- SMASHINGTIMES**
- Waterford Traveller**
- 1895**
- CESCA**
- LIR** (anti-racism training & education)
- SMASHINGTIMES**

# Reporting centres

Organisations which offer support to use iReport.ie include:

## **Amal Women's Group**

Dublin  
amal.hope@outlook.ie

## **Cairde**

Dublin & Balbriggan  
01 855 2111  
info@cairde.ie  
www.cairde.ie

## **Cultúr**

Navan, Co Meath  
(046) 9093120  
info@cultur.ie  
www.cultur.ie

## **Crosscare Refugee Service**

Dublin: 01 873 2844  
crs@crosscare.ie  
www.crosscare.ie

## **Doras Luimni**

Limerick: 061 310 328  
info@dorasluimni.org  
www.dorasluimni.org

## **Dublin City Centre Citizen Information Service**

076 107 7230  
13A O'Connell Street Upper,  
Dublin 1

## **Dublin South City Partnership**

01 473 2196  
info@canalpartnership.com  
www.dublinsouthcity  
partnership.ie

## **F2 Centre Dublin**

01 471 6700  
info@f2c.ie  
www.f2c.ie

## **Galway Traveller Movement**

091 765 390  
info@gtmtrav.ie  
www.gtmtrav.ie

## **Jesuit Refugee Service**

Limerick: 061 480922  
Dublin: 01 8148644  
info@jrs.ie  
www.jrs.ie

## **Islamic Foundation of Ireland**

Dublin: 01 453 3242  
info@islaminireland.com  
www.islaminireland.com

## **Irish Traveller Movement**

or any of its member  
organisations:  
01 6796577  
itmtrav@indigo.ie  
www.itmtrav.ie

## **Irish Refugee Council**

Dublin: 01 764 5854  
info@irishrefugeecouncil.ie  
www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie

## **Mayo Intercultural Action**

Castlebar: 094 904 4511  
miamayo@eircom.net

## **Migrant Rights Centre Ireland**

Dublin: 01 889 7570  
info@mrci.ie  
www.mrci.ie

## **Nasc, the Irish Immigrant Support Centre**

Cork: 021 450 3462  
info@nascireland.org  
www.nascireland.org

## **National Youth Council of Ireland**

Dublin: 01 478 4122  
info@nyci.ie  
www.nyci.ie

## **New Communities Partnership**

Dublin: 01 8727842  
info@newcommunities.ie  
www.newcommunities.ie

## **Offaly Traveller Movement**

Tullamore: 057 93 52438  
info@otm.ie  
www.otm.ie

## **Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Rights Centre**

Dublin: 01 8780255  
info@paveepoint.ie  
www.paveepoint.ie

## **Rialto Community Drug Team**

Dublin  
edie@rcdt.ie

## **Rialto Community Network**

Dublin: 01 473 2003  
info@rcn.ie  
www.rcn.ie

## **SICODA**

Dublin: 01 453 6098  
bbrennan@sicda.ie  
www.sicda.ie

## **South Dublin Intercultural Centre / Tallaght Roma Integration Project**

SDCC Intercultural Drop-in  
Centre, Dublin  
01 464 9306  
Ezuzana.tesarova@  
sdcpartnership.ie  
www.sdcpartnership.ie

## **St Andrew's Community Centre**

Dublin: 01 453 3938  
centremanager@  
standrews.ie  
www.standrews.ie

## **St Michael's Family Resource Centre**

Dublin: 01 453 3938  
ailishfrc@eircom.net

## **Union of Students in Ireland**

Dublin: 01 709 9300  
equality@usi.ie  
www.usi.ie

**A full list of the 70 ENAR  
Ireland Network Members  
can be found at:**  
www.enarireland.org/  
membership

## Reporting a racist incident

To report a racist incident, go to [www.iReport.ie](http://www.iReport.ie) and fill out the online form. Photographs, screen grabs and other files can be uploaded as well.

The form can be filled in by:

- the person who has experienced racism
- someone supporting a person who has experienced racism
- someone who has witnessed racism
- someone who has heard about a racist incident.

### What is racism?

ENAR Ireland uses the definition of Racism as established by the UN International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) (1969): 'Any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference, based on race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, which has the purpose of modifying or impairing the recognition, the enjoyment or exercise on an equal footing of human rights and fundamental freedom in the political, economic, social, cultural, or any other field of public life constitutes racial discrimination.'

### What is a racist incident?

Following the above definition, a racist incident is any incident which has the effect of undermining anyone's enjoyment or human rights, based on their background. ENAR Ireland follows international best practice in adopting the definition set out by UK Lord McPherson in his Report of the Inquiry into the Murder of Stephen Lawrence (1999), namely that a racist incident is: 'any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person'.

This definition has since been adopted by police forces across the UK (where the Association of Chief Police Officers welcomed it for the 'clarity' it gives police forces). The definition is now also

the definition used by An Garda Síochána, the Irish police force. The definition is also consistent with the standards set by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and which are used in the iReport.ie online questionnaire:

### Why would you or the person it happened to say the incident was racist?

- Racist language was used
- Language about the person's religion was used
- There did not appear to be any other possible motive
- It was about something else, but racism came into it

Racist incidents (as distinct from racist crimes) include a range of acts which are racist but which may or may not meet the criteria for being considered criminal offences, or which may be deemed by law enforcement to be too difficult to secure convictions with. The data captured by iReport.ie ranges from these kind of incidents to incidents that are unambiguously recognised by law as criminal offences.

It is important to capture the full spectrum of incidents, including those which fall below the threshold of criminality. While some incidents are deemed too hard to prosecute, they are nevertheless important to capture, since research shows them to have an effect on individuals, communities and community relations that is much more harmful than their 'mildness' might suggest. Patterns of these 'minor' incidents can also act as warnings of more serious incidents. For the same reasons, the UK Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), in its guidelines on monitoring incidents, recommends that police forces record all racist incidents, criminal and non-criminal.



# July-Dec 2016: Analysis in Detail

Dr Lucy Michael, Ulster University

## Overview

A total of 245 completed reports were received in this six month period, representing a much higher level of reporting than the previous six-month period, in which 190 reports were received, and again a significantly higher level than all previously recorded periods. This level of reporting shows a consistent rise since the launch of iReport.ie in July 2013. In total, 1335 reports have been received by iReport.ie since July 2013.

## Criminal offences and illegal discrimination

In this period, the data includes at least 155 criminal offences (excluding any repeated offences), 98 incidents of verbal abuse (some of which may qualify as criminal offences), and 57 incidents involving illegal discrimination. Six cases included offences of criminal damage caused by graffiti, as well as offences of incitement to hatred in all 6 cases. Sixty-six cases concerned incitement to hatred offences in media and social media publications.

## Serious criminal harms

Assault appeared in 20 cases, including 8 with physical injury and 5 with threats to kill or cause serious harm. Eleven of the cases involved the use of racist language by perpetrators. Twelve assaults were committed by strangers.

Twenty-one cases involved threats to kill or cause serious harm. Twelve of the cases involved the use of racist language by perpetrators and two referred to the targeted person's religion. Just nine of these threats were made by strangers, while the rest of the perpetrators were known to the targeted persons.

Theft appeared in just 2 cases, in all cases alongside serious offences.

## Assault

Below is a short summary of some of the 20 cases of assault reported in this period.

A South Asian man in his late 20s was verbally and physically assaulted by an Irish male. The victim believes the perpetrator was under the influence of alcohol. The incident happened in Co. Laois at night and it was not reported to the Gardaí in advance of iReport submission.

A Black African refugee was physically assaulted by two co-residents in temporary accommodation. After the incident, the victim sought medical help and reported to the Gardaí and a housing charity.

A Muslim man was in a club in Dublin when another man aggressively blocked his way, verbally abused and physically assaulted him, causing immediate nose bleeding. The perpetrator also assaulted club security when they tried to prevent him from running away from the venue. Gardaí arrived at the scene and arrested the perpetrator, a report has been also been filed by the victim. The victim sought medical help and is likely to have a scar on the face for the rest of his life which might negatively impact on his employment. He also reported that the incident severely impacted him emotionally.

A Muslim man reported having objects thrown at him and his family in a Dublin park. The incident was not reported to the Gardaí as the victim does not believe reporting will have any effect.

A Black woman reported having a can of drink thrown at her by a group of men in a car. The perpetrators then verbally racially abused her. The incident had a severe emotional impact on the victim who now avoids walking on the streets alone, for fear of a similar assault happening again. She is also anxious about her children's safety. Gardaí were informed of the incident, but the victim was not able to file a report despite multiple visits to Garda station, so she is not sure whether they followed up on her complaint.

A Jewish woman was physically and verbally assaulted on a street in the early evening. She did not report to Gardaí, as anonymous reporting was not available.

A young Black African woman reported being assaulted by a couple in shared accommodation. She was both verbally and physically abused, which caused facial wounds and bruises to her body. The perpetrator threw the victim to the ground and threatened to kill her. The landlord separated them and Gardaí visited the house

the following day and advised the victim to seek medical report and move out of the house. The Gardaí have not taken a statement from the victim which left her feeling distrustful of Gardaí. Due to the incident, the victim had to take off time from work and still experiences anxiety.

*"I felt embarrassed because no action was taken by the guards and they didn't even ring me back... I was afraid to be on my own in the house. I was having nightmares after the incident happened."*

A Black African man was verbally abused by an Irish male when leaving his house in Dublin. The perpetrator followed him and physically assaulted the victim, who lost his front tooth. While the victim was waiting for an ambulance, two more men came and attacked him with a hockey stick. The victim was waiting two hours for the Gardaí to arrive at the scene and he was taken to Garda station before an ambulance was called.

In Dublin city centre, a young Black African woman was assaulted by an Irish male while waiting on a bus. He tried to steal the victim's phone, followed by verbal and physical abuse. Two women came over to help her. The incident was not reported to the Gardaí.

A Black African woman was walking on the streets in Dublin when a random man unexpectedly physically and verbally abused her and her friend. The incident was not reported to the Gardaí.

### Verbal abuse

The largest proportion of incidents submitted to iReport.ie concerned verbal abuse. Verbal abuse was reported in 98 cases. Thirty of these incidents involved a perpetrator known to the person targeted by the abuse, while the majority were by strangers.

A young Muslim female was verbally abused twice in a day when walking on the streets in Dublin with a friend. First a young couple yelled racist abuse at them from a car and then two school girls in uniforms verbally assaulted them in the afternoon. The victim reported feeling unsafe and discriminated in Dublin. She did not report to Gardaí, but may have done so if a self-report form was available.

*"There were 2 school girls (they were in their school uniforms) walking towards them and one of them yelled "BOOOOOOOM!" right in front of my face."*

An Irish Traveller woman was verbally assault-

ed on a bus she takes every day to work. The incident left her emotionally distracted and she is now anxious about travelling to work by bus. The victim did not report the incident to the Gardaí due to their poor response to previous incidents, but would be encouraged to report if anonymous reporting was available.

Cases of mistaken racialisation also feature in the incident reports. In one case, a mother of two children was with her white Irish husband in McDonald's when the woman at the next table began talking aloud about the 'disgusting people' and then complained to staff about their presence. The mother believes that because of her darker skin and foreign accent the other woman thought she and her children were Muslim, even though she is Catholic.

The impact of verbal abuse can be significant, causing fear and avoidance amongst those targeted.

*"I'm scared to go out or talk with my kids in our language thinking that they will do something to us or maybe come at night to the house and do something I really don't feel safe here."*

None of the people reporting racism in this period considered that the verbal abuse they described could be categorised as 'offensive jokes', but 2 people did describe how the perpetrator considered them so. One case refers to the presence of jokes in repeated harassment, while the other referred to overheard jokes by strangers.

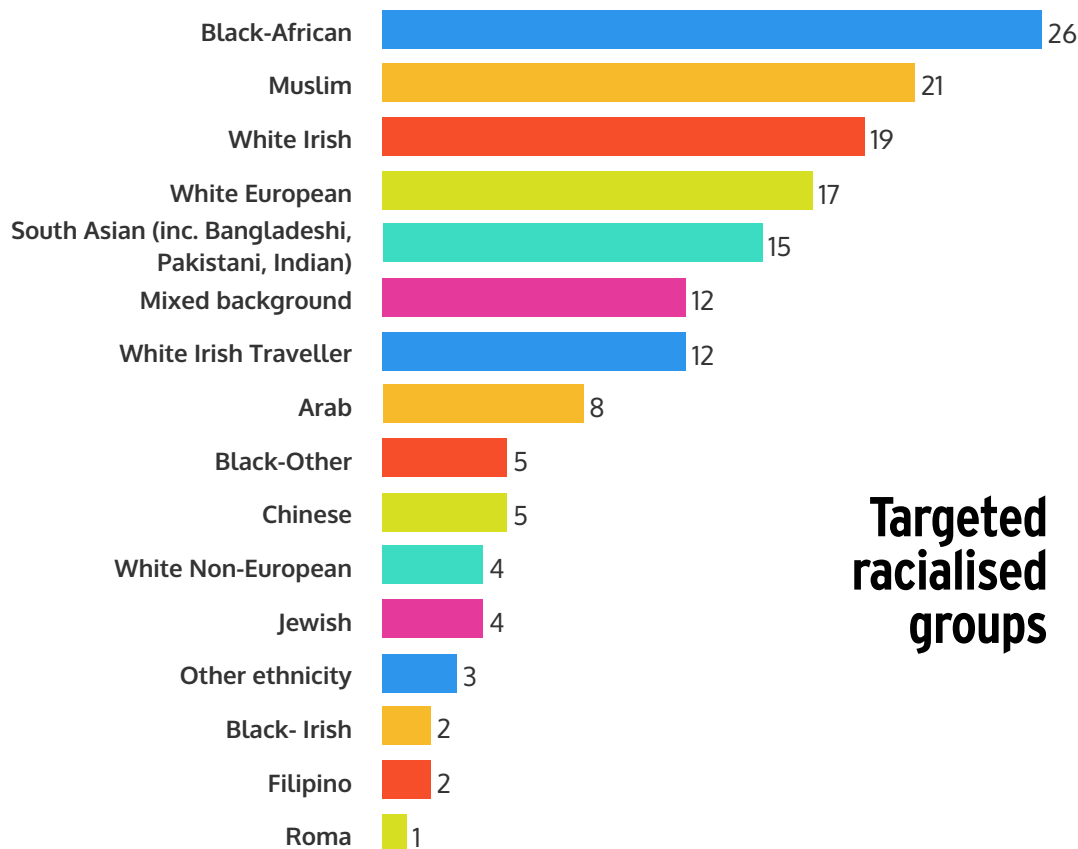
*"Called me n\*\*\*\*r and uses word regularly, makes stereotypical and racist offensive "jokes". Mocking amongst other things. Some racism and rest is just bullying"*

### Graffiti: criminal damage and incitement to hatred

Six reports in this period concerned graffiti. One of these was close to religious or ethnic community buildings, 2 were on public transport, and 1 was on a takeaway in a housing estate. One described an incident in which theft was accompanied by a message referring to 'dirty foreigners'. The reporting party did not consider the theft to be racially motivated. One incident targeted Eastern Europeans, and 3 referred to racial purity or neo-nazism, targeting no one particular group.

### Other criminal damage

Fourteen reports concerned single or multiple counts of criminal damage in addition to the 6 cases of criminal damage resulting from graffiti described above.



The 14 incidents included 5 counts of damage on homes, 2 on businesses, and 1 on a vehicle. Personal belongings were damaged in 7 incidents. Criminal damage is associated with violence and verbal abuse in most cases. Nine of the incidents included violence.

*“Teenagers are harassing a new takeaway every single day. I could hear a lot of shouting and crashing noises and heard the teenagers laughing and telling other boys on the road to join in saying “we’re getting some craic off the P\*\*\* bastards”. They gave a younger teenager 2 Euro to “slap a can of Coke off the P\*\*\* face” and he did it. When the owners pulled the shutters down the teenagers started to drop kick the shutters shouting P\*\*\* and threatened to “burn your chipper down”. I believe without a doubt this takeaway is being targeted daily simply because the owners are not white Irish.”*

Seven of the incidents targeted people who are ethnic minority Irish citizens.

### Discrimination

Discrimination in service and employment were reported 57 times in this period. The reported cases of discrimination result from both direct and institutional racism, enacted by public and private bodies and individuals. Discrimination

in this category describes incidents which appear to contravene the Employment Equality Acts 1998–2015 or the Equal Status Acts 2000–2015 (which outlaw discrimination in employment, vocational training, advertising, collective agreements, and the provision of goods and services), or which demonstrate discriminatory treatment by a public body on the grounds of race or ethnicity.

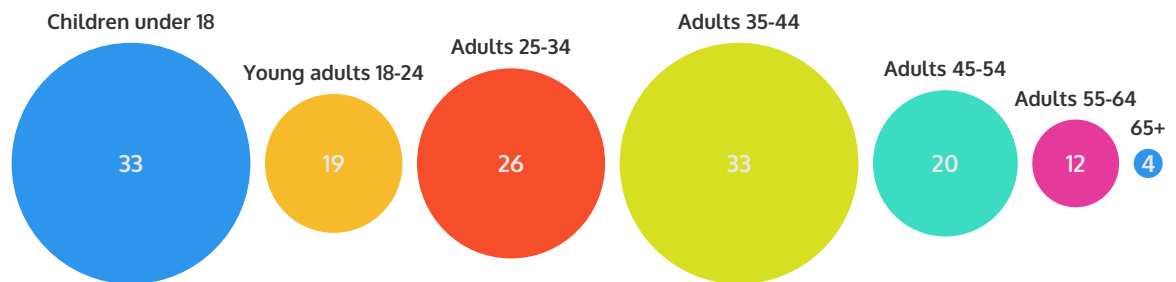
### Discrimination in employment

Nine cases referred to employment discrimination, including 7 in existing employment, and 2 seeking work. Four involved dismissal, including one after complaints by the victim about professional standards. Two related to abuse by customers who verbally abused the ethnic minority person serving them.

*“I was serving a customer who was very arrogant when dealing with my other colleagues. ... At the end of the transaction she told me I have an attitude problem - at this stage I decided she crossed the line, and I said that she is the one with attitude and that I am just trying to help her and that I am just a human being - to which she replied “No you’re not, you’re a fucking foreigner”. She left very quickly afterwards. ... I felt as if I was degraded to something that doesn’t even have the right to be a human being.”*



# Age of perpetrator



*"My employee was asked if she was Irish and when she said no she was told to go back to her own country and to stop taking Irish peoples jobs."*

Discrimination in employment causes a particular psychological distress for the targeted person(s) because employment is so crucial to good mental health, particularly in the context of racialised minorities being accused of laziness and benefit dependence.

*"I am the only non Irish and non white that has been sacked. I was a hard worker, always punctual and always did my job right. ... I have never been so humiliated and deeply hurt. I can't sleep and cry all the time as I feel diminished. My children can't understand why their mother doesn't work anymore."*

One case described customers refusing to take a taxi driven by a Black driver.

*"Standing in a queue at a taxi rank on college green waiting on a taxi. Three people ahead of us (a couple & a single lady) refused to let the single lady into the next taxi as it had a black driver. And gave it to the people behind them. The single lady then got into the next taxi which had a white driver."*

## Provision of goods and services

Cases of refused service or entry and poor service were reported 32 times in this period. Pubs, restaurants and hotels accounted for 5 reports and shops for 5 reports.

*"Client phoned a cleaning company and was refused service. Was told repeatedly 'we won't do it for you', and he believes he was refused because he is not Irish (based on his accent). He rang back and asked to speak with manager but the same man answered and refused to put him through."*

Creating an intimidating atmosphere is a com-

mon strategy amongst staff who do not want to serve particular groups. Travellers are particularly singled out in this regard.

*"The other customer who was looking at stuff around the till area so I could see her, she was a Traveller. A shop assistant blatantly followed her around, keeping her directly in her line of vision and stayed no more than six feet away from the individual. It was such an obvious act of prejudicial harassment and I imagine intimidating for the lady who left pretty quickly."*

*"The checkout girl was talking to another girl at counter, I was standing in the queue and overheard the checkout girl saying to her friend "Did you see sure its all over the news Travellers want ethnicity like seriously", the other girl said, 'yeah if they get it I might just pretend to be a knacker and get a load of free stuff, you know the saying act like a knacker and you get knacker money". They both laughed and the checkout girl said "oh god please don't act like a knacker 'boss' its culture man" they both laughed."*

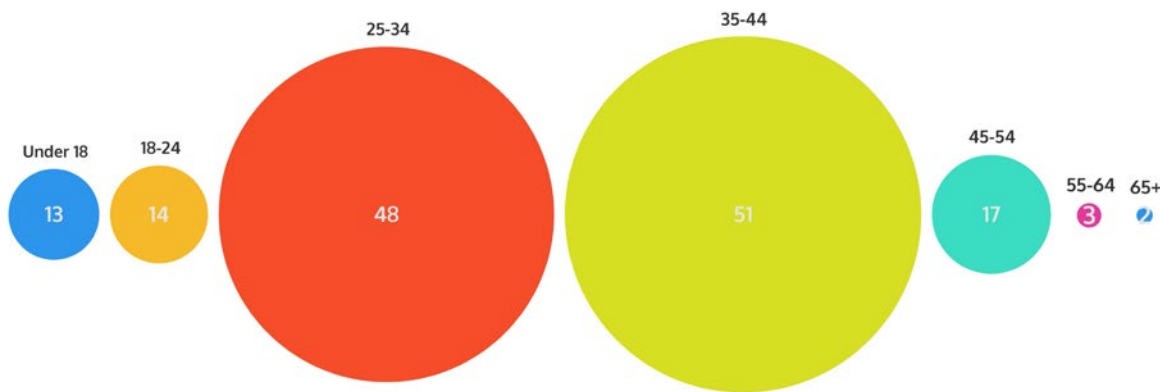
Three cases related to private accommodation, including discrimination against one person identifying themselves as a Traveller, and one person identifying themselves as Indian.

Four cases related to discrimination in the provision of transport, including a bus driver who frequently drove off without allowing a passenger to board.

Two separate cases concerned immigration interviews at Dublin Airport, where the individuals were singled out being the only Black people present.

*"It was utterly humiliating for my son and I. Of the other passengers that traversed through*

## Age of victim



*immigration at that time, my son and I, Black Americans, were the only ones subjected to this treatment. This was the first time I've ever been to Ireland and my experience before even leaving the airport was absolutely humiliating and disheartening. We are scheduled to be in Ireland for three days. After that incident, I wanted to return home to the United States."*

Nine reports concerned racist behaviour by a staff member in other public service organisations. Four involved abuse in schools, including 3 incidents of repeated harassment by teachers. Two involved discrimination by teaching staff in further and higher education establishments.

Three cases involve discrimination in Direct Provision. In one case the management reported a resident to Gardaí for unknown reasons, in another management failed to respond when several members of a family were assaulted, and threatened one adult member. In the third case, a resident was not allowed to see a doctor despite severe pain and depression.

Four cases reported in this period concerned racial profiling by Gardaí of ethnic minorities. These involved a vehicle stop, a house search which involved an extensive amount of damage of religious objects, advice to publicans to close premises on the day of a Traveller funeral, and questioning in public. These were against a range of different ethnic groups.

Cases of discrimination are often as damaging as hate crimes, since the effect can be so significant on housing, employment, education or use of local amenities, and therefore on the quality of life available to people of a particular ethnic group. The effect is both individual, and collective.

Patterns of discrimination against particular

ethnic groups, such as those that have been observed in iReport.ie since 2013, show that those ethnic groups are experiencing systemic racism that will over an extended period of time produce a marked difference in the ability of those groups to participate fully in Irish social and economic life.

The difficulties of accessing information about and recording of a range of forms of discrimination in Ireland means that discrimination is increasingly made invisible in official statistics and discourse in Ireland. This was brought about by the closure of a range of statutory equality bodies and the transfer of duties under the Equality Act to the Workplace Relations Commission, even for cases of discrimination that do not involve employment. The move has made it more difficult to find out how to report discrimination to statutory authorities, and those experiencing discrimination who report to An Garda Síochána are not directed to the appropriate civil routes.

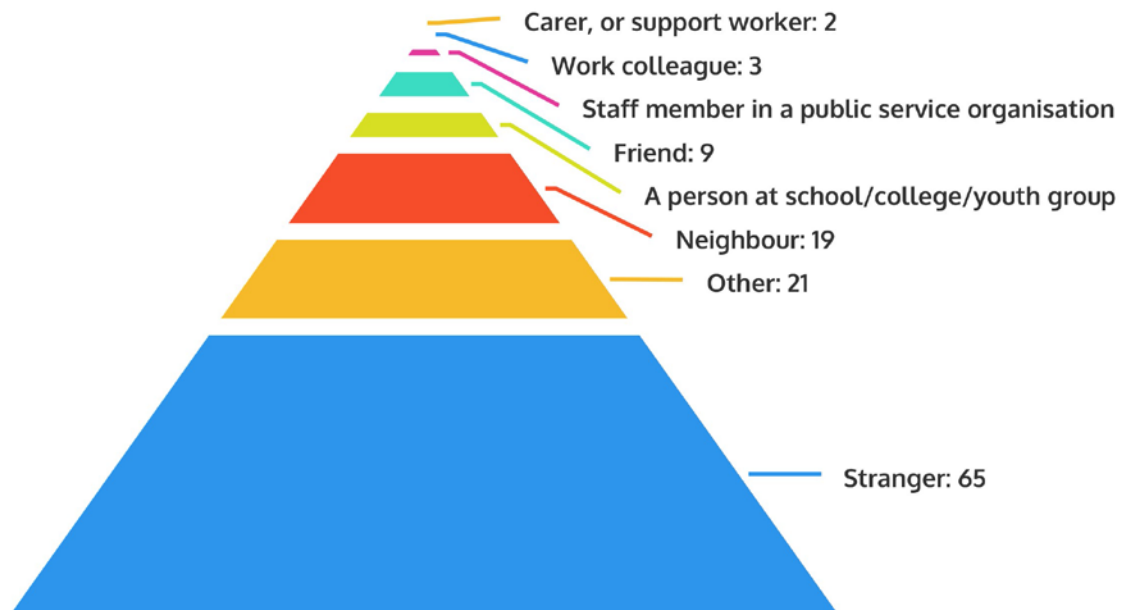
### Targeted groups

#### Ethnic, religious and racialised identities

Data concerning the ethnic, religious and racialised identities of people experiencing racism was captured in 131 reports of abuse and discrimination. Groups targeted in media-only and graffiti-only reports are dealt with separately in those sections.

People identified as 'Black' were targeted in 33 cases of abuse and discrimination. South Asians were targeted in 15 cases. Fifty-two of the targeted persons were described as White, with 17 White European (EU citizenship reported separately, see below), 12 Irish Travellers, 4 White non-European, and 19 White Irish. People of mixed ethnic background were targeted in 12 cases. 21 were Muslim and 4 were Jewish.

# Relationship of perpetrator to victim



## Nationality and immigration status

Of the 88 people who reported their own experience of racism, 87 gave an indication of their own nationality or immigration status. Almost half (41) were Irish citizens, of which 21 described their ethnicity as something other than white Irish or Traveller. A further 18 were EU citizens. There were 21 visa-holders, 3 asylum-seekers, 2 people with undocumented status and 2 with refugee status.

Of the 67 people reporting on behalf of someone else, 28 were not sure of the status of the affected person(s), 36 gave an indication of status, and 5 did not answer the question. Affected groups were in similar proportion to those self-reporting, with 18 Irish citizens (9 not white Irish or Traveller), 9 EU citizens, 5 visa-holders, 1 asylum seeker, 1 person with undocumented status and 3 with refugee status.

These indications tell us that racism is most often reported by and about people who are Irish or EU citizens, most likely because they are aware of available reporting systems, have language fluency to report or to tell others who can report, and are integrated into Irish communities. The low number of asylum-seekers and refugees reporting reflects internationally low reporting trends by these groups who often are isolated and unaware of organisations or individuals who can help (FRA, *Current migration situation*

in the EU: hate crime, 2016). This is particularly the case in Ireland where asylum seekers are isolated from wider communities through residence in Direct Provision centres.

## Gender

Men and women were almost equally targeted in assaults and repeated harassment in this period, although men experienced more threats to kill or cause harm. Men were much more likely to report poor service, and women had similar experiences of refused service, refused entry, work discrimination and seeking accommodation. There was 1 report from a person identifying as transgender.

## Age of targeted person(s)

Three-quarters of all victims are again under the age of 45, with people in the categories '25-34' and '35 to 44' appearing in the highest number of reports across the categories of violence, abuse and discrimination.

With just 27 reports about under 25s (of which 13 were under 18), there is a disproportionate experience of violence in this age group. This is likely to be because young people are less inclined to formally report racist abuse or discrimination. It is notable that no reports came directly from under 18s, and the 13 cases about under 18s were submitted on their behalf by someone else. Two cases involved women who were heavily pregnant.



## Perpetrators

### Gender and age of perpetrators

Predominantly perpetrators were male (83 cases), with female perpetrators in just 32 cases. Mixed gender groups appeared in 17 cases.

The largest age group involved as perpetrators were those aged 35-44 and under 18s (33 cases each), followed by those aged 25-34 (26 cases).

*"For myself and my mother, this experience had a very negative impact as it showed us that even children could be influenced by such things. Now, I'm afraid of even going to the park for fear of another confrontation."*

### Group and individual perpetrators

Perpetrators acted alone in 78 cases, with one other person in 22 cases, with two other people in 12 cases, and with more than 3 others in 17 cases.

### Ethnicity

White Irish perpetrators were identified in 58 cases. White Irish Travellers were identified in 11 cases. White Europeans were identified in 7 cases, and White Non-Europeans in 3 cases. Some uncertainty around white identities is expressed in 23 of the White Irish cases, with multiple identities indicated.

Perpetrators were identified as Black in 5 cases, Arab in 1 case and South Asian in 3 cases.

### Evidencing motives

In 71 cases of abuse and discrimination, racist language was directed at the targeted person(s). In 9 cases, language about the person's religion was used. In 4 cases, the victim wore clothes of a particular religion or ethnic group.

There were also references to accent and to Brexit. In 21 cases, the incident was about something else, but racism came into it. In 23 cases, there did not appear to be any other motive.

### Alcohol and drugs

In 16 of the cases reported in this period, the perpetrators were clearly under the influence of alcohol (9) and drugs (5).

In a further 50 cases the reporting person was 'not sure' if the perpetrator was intoxicated.

In 74 cases, there was no indication that the perpetrator was under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

## Mapping incidents

### Locations

Reported incidents occurred in 19 counties in the Republic of Ireland, with reports from both targeted persons and third parties well distributed across the country. The highest number of reports concerned incidents in Dublin (80), with 14 in Cork and 6 in Galway and Donegal. Other counties were mentioned in less than 5 reports each. The nature of racist incidents reported across the full spread of counties demonstrates the similarity of experience throughout the country.

Public transport is a particular area of concern in the extent to which it makes minorities vulnerable to attack.

*"On one bus journey in about 100 meters distance, two different incidents occurred. The first time, the bus stopped once in a neighborhood and two adolescents threw rocks at the bus window while screaming, "N\*\*, N\*\*" multiple times - these insults and the rock throwing were directed at two black men, who were not connected, sitting in the bus. The second incident happened about 100 meters later when a group of four small children (maximum 6 years old) screamed "N\*\*, N\*\*" multiple times and then threw water balloons at the bus in the same manner."*

### Patterns of harassment

More than forty percent of all incidents reported (67) were part of a pattern of repeated harassment, with incidents reported frequently include more than one criminal offence. Reports refer also to criminal offences perpetrated on earlier dates. There are however very few instances of multiple reporting from the same victims. Instead victims and witnesses submitted single reports describing a pattern of harassment over weeks, months or years. This means that some of the incidents are described only as occurring frequently or regularly, and because of this the number of incidents far exceeds the number submitted to iReport.ie (which counts single reports). The number of criminal offences is also therefore significantly under reflected.

Of those 67 cases of repeated harassment, more than a quarter (18) involved violence, and illustrate the problem of escalation when low-level harassment is not properly addressed by the authorities and agencies who have legal powers to intervene and deter perpetrators. Of these, 21 affected people at home, 7 affected people at work and 6 in education.

## Reporting to An Garda Síochána and others

Of the 88 people who reported being targeted, just over half (51%) reported to another body as well as to iReport.ie. Reports to Gardaí were made by 19 people, and of these, 7 included violence, 18 abuse, 1 criminal damage and 5 unlawful discrimination. Just 28 percent of people experiencing violence reported the incident to police. Reports were made to other organisations by 26 people. Those who reported violence to other organisations than An Garda Síochána would have reported to police if anonymous reporting or a self-report form were available.

Of the 68 people reporting the targeting of another person, 42 percent reported it to another body as well as to iReport.ie. Reports to Gardaí were made by 9 people, and of these, 4 included violence, 7 abuse, 4 criminal damage, and 2 unlawful discrimination.

Reports made to other organisations were mainly made to ethnic minority or migrant-focused NGOs and places of education, followed by county councils and public transport organisations.

## Improving reporting to Gardaí

Respondents were also asked to indicate what would have encouraged them to report this incident.

Anonymous reporting	29
Self-report form	28
Police officer of the same ethnic/racial group(s)	6
Someone else would report to Gardaí on victim's behalf	12

Thirteen respondents provided an alternative answer to the question. Four of these would not be convinced to report to Gardaí at all. Three indicated that they would first want to see evidence that An Garda Síochána took racism seriously and acted upon other incidents. One indicated that a dedicated website for reporting would be welcome.

Slow and inadequate responses from An Garda Síochána to violence are a repeated theme in iReport.ie submissions each year. The following case is a good example of the common experiences of delays reported in this period.

*"He hit my head from back and I fell on my face. My face, nose was trashed on the floor and I lost my front tooth. While I was waiting for ambulance*

*about 20 - 30 minutes' time, two boys came with a stick looked like hockey stick. The front one started beat me with it and I ran to the street and they also ran in the opposite direction away. I waited for about 2 hour after people called 999 for police and ambulance, without police or Garda come. I was taken by a car to Garda station, before the police on duty called ambulance for me."*

As well as delays in responses to calls from victims or witnesses, there is also a common experience of delays and obfuscation in follow-up on investigations. In reports from those who have been persistent in trying to get the Gardaí to investigate criminal offences against them, there is a clear pattern of wilful miscommunication, refusal to record incidents, diversion to other bodies more appropriate for non-criminal incidents, disrespectful behaviour towards victims and their families, communication with perpetrators without informing victims, failure to collect evidence and unlawful behaviour.

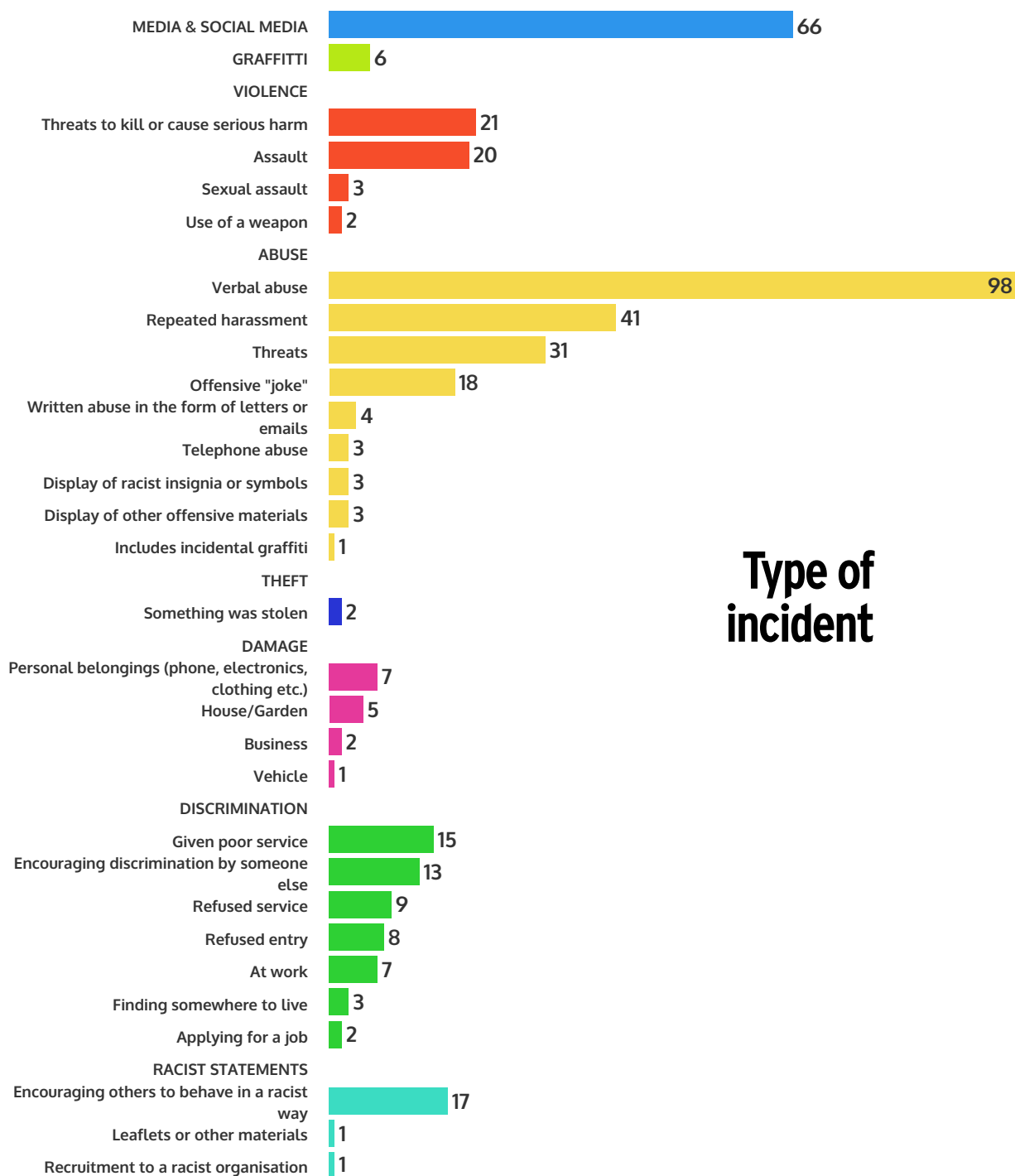
A report submitted two months after an incident of assault in the street by strangers described the failure of Gardaí to communicate both in the short and long term about their investigation:

*"I reported the incident to the Garda station on Sunday 5th June 2016. I am yet to give statement or hear from the Gardaí. After the day I made the report I have visited the Garda station four times. Telephoned once and spoken to two Garda Sergeants but I am yet to meet with the Garda that I made the report to. I find this very frustrating. So I do not know if he is following up on my complaint or not."*

A member NGO reported on a client's experience: *"Woman was verbally abused by another customer (man) in a restaurant where she was eating dinner. ... Gardaí came to the restaurant and she made a report, but she has not been informed if any investigation resulted from that."*

Getting information from Gardaí about whether they are following up on a complaint at all requires persistence, and the lack of availability of information is a consistent theme across reports. Victims left feeling unsafe after an attack have no way of communicating with the Gardaí who took the report, and report extensive failures on the part of Gardaí to contact them to follow up. In the following case, the victim and family were left devastated by an attack by neighbours, and wanted information on what action the Gardaí had taken in communicating with the perpetrators so that they could properly negotiate their relations with those neighbours. They had called

## Type of incident



Gardaí at 11pm to deal with the racist abuse and ongoing disturbance.

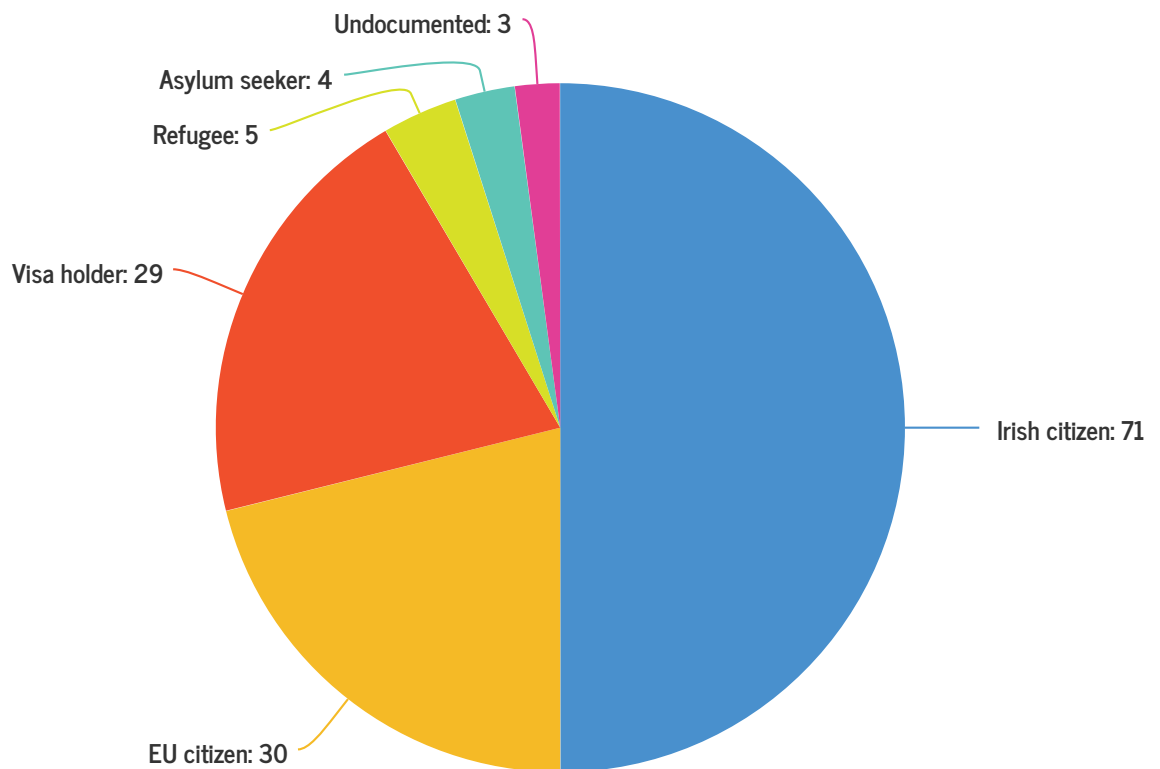
*"The Garda car came over between 1.30 am and 2.00am. The Gardaí rang my bell and spoke to me then went next door to talk to my neighbours. He left without even telling me anything. ... I went to the Garda station the first thing to talk to somebody about the previous night's incident. I feel up to today as if am not been taken seriously. [Ten days later] the Gardaí who came over that night called me to say that he has talked to my neighbour and if anything happens I should not hesitate but to call the Gardaí again."*

### Impact on the victim

In addition to descriptions of the incidents, the reporting system also asks about the impact of the incident on the reporting person. Whether victim or eyewitness, it is evident that the majority of reported incidents had significant impact in terms of health, feelings of inclusion, and ability to work and form relationships. Accounts of impact were provided in 111 cases of abuse and discrimination (72%). Respondents were asked to answer the question 'Please describe the full impact of the incident on the person(s) it happened to'.



## Status of victim



Fifteen incidents resulted in physical injuries, with half requiring medical treatment. One brought on an epileptic fit in the targeted person, and four caused ongoing ill health over periods of months and years.

The psychological effects of reported incidents is significant. One victim reported having suicidal thoughts afterwards, 9 described ongoing serious anxiety and 7 described significant experiences of depression. The answers to this question were given in the words of the person reporting the incident rather than in a pre-set question.

ing to work, shopping or talking to neighbours.

*"I now feel very unsafe and worry about bumping into him again. I also worry that the shop's lack of support for me meant that other people felt the same way as my attacker."*

The level of fear, as in the last period, prompted cases of moving house, avoiding local amenities including shops and public transport, avoiding areas near to where they lived, not leaving the house except at essential times, and two families not socialising with anyone.

*"I have lost everything I own, everything I am, my self- respect, my dignity. My life has totally been destroyed and am suffering mental stress and suicidal tendencies. I have not been able to take care of my physical health since I suffered high blood pressure, heart problems and depression since the attack by people in authority who are supposed to be there to protect your rights."*

Thirty-one people reported fear as a direct result of the experience which were so significant that it impacted on their ability to engage in normal everyday activities like attending school or go-

*"The incident left me shaking but I managed to attend my appointment. I felt unsafe coming back home on the bus and walking back home so I came home in a taxi. I usually go for walks around my area but I have been unable to go on my own. I even drive to the shops now as I am afraid of such incident happening again. I constantly worry for my sons whenever they are out. I fear that they may experience similar or worse racial attacks when they are out and about."*

**With thanks to Inga Wojcik for her help in summarising the cases of assault.**

# Racism in media, on the web and in social media



Sixty-six reports concerned the publication of racist statements in media and social media. Racist statements are those which use racist language which demeans or dehumanises a racialised group or perceived member of that group. 27 of these provided screengrabs of the publication, and 39 provided a URL for the publication. Of these, 30 were published on social media sites including Facebook (24) and Twitter (6). Two concerned publications on radio. Five concerned national or regional newspapers.

*"I was sick to see something like this on Facebook. I reported the case but Facebook doesn't find the picture is breaching their "community rules". This picture was shared on Twitter as an example of racism in Ireland and unacceptable response from Facebook."*

*"It sickens me that in this day and age, people can mock the deaths of innocent people trying to flee, war, civic strife and oppressive regimes to further their twisted racist agenda."*

*"I felt offended and angry at the lack of accountability by Local elected representatives and the local paper."*



*"In one of his discussions he described refugees coming to Ireland as "poisonous". ... He often tries to discuss anecdotes and letters sent to him about immigrants and does reinforce and even promote hate, discrimination and racism."*

*"I fear for my children going to school and being targeted because of their ethnicity"*

*"It feels horrible to see people being so open and proud of their hate and not having to face any consequences."*

Sixteen of the reports concerned published statements against Muslims. Three were against Jewish people. Nine of the reports concerned racist statements against people identified as Black and nine were against Travellers.

Twenty-two reports were submitted by people who identified as members of the targeted ethnic or racialised groups, and 40 by those who did not.

# Support for victims

Individual support for people who have been subjected to racism is available from the organisations in our network. ENAR Ireland does not provide direct support of this kind, but can guide you to organisations that can help. We welcome comments on the support needs around the country.

Our partners providing this support include:

**Akidwa Migrant Women's Network**  
01 834 9851  
info@akidwa.ie  
www.akidwa.ie

**Crosscare**  
Dublin: 01 873 2844  
www.crosscare.ie

**Cultúr**  
Navan, Co Meath: 046 9093120  
info@cultur.ie  
www.cultur.ie

**Doras Luimni**  
Limerick: 061 310 328  
info@dorasluimni.org  
www.dorasluimni.org

**Immigrant Council of Ireland**  
Dublin: 01 674 0200  
info@immigrantcouncil.ie  
www.immigrantcouncil.ie

**Galway Traveller Movement**  
091 765 390  
info@gtmtrav.ie  
www.gtmtrav.ie

**Jesuit Refugee Service**  
Limerick: 061 480922  
Dublin: 01 8148644  
info@jrs.ie www.jrs.ie

**Irish Traveller Movement** or any of its member organisations:  
01 6796577  
itmtrav@indigo.ie  
www.itmtrav.ie

**Irish Refugee Council Dublin**  
01 764 5854  
info@irishrefugeecouncil.ie  
www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie

**Migrant Rights Centre Ireland**  
Dublin: 01 889 7570  
info@mrci.ie  
www.mrci.ie

**Nasc: Irish Immigrant Support Centre**  
Cork: 021 450 3462  
info@nascireland.org  
www.nascireland.org

**New Communities Partnership**  
Dublin: 01 8727842  
info@newcommunities.ie  
www.newcommunities.ie

**Offaly Traveller Movement**  
Tullamore: 057 93 52438  
www.otm.ie  
info@otm.ie

**Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Rights Centre**  
Dublin: 01 8780255  
info@paveepoint.ie  
www.paveepoint.ie

**South Dublin Intercultural Centre / Tallaght Roma Integration Project**  
SDCC Intercultural Drop-in Centre  
Dublin: 01 464 9306  
zuzana.tesarova@sdcpartnership.ie  
www.sdcpartnership.ie

A full list of ENAR Ireland participating organisations can be found at:  
[www.enarireland.org/membership/](http://www.enarireland.org/membership/)

It is important to stress that, while ENAR Ireland always encourages people to report racism to An Garda Síochána, the Irish police, because of confidentiality issues reports of racism reported to iReport.ie will NOT automatically be reported to An Garda Síochána. iReport.ie is NOT an emergency service and serious incidents should be reported to the emergency services. In an emergency call: 112 or 999.

## Notes on the survey

The survey was revised significantly in January 2016 to improve the quality of data collected and to provide a greater range of preset responses. These changes included an explicit question about religious groups.

The survey allows any member of the public to report a racist incident and the incident is defined as racist by the reporting party. No judgement is made on the nature of the incident by the authors of the survey. In this iReport.ie follows the definition of a racist incident formally adopted by An Garda Síochána in 2001.

A new question on the 2016 survey asked the status of the affected person(s). This is to help us to identify whether particular groups are targeted on the grounds of their immigration status as well as perceived ethnic or racialised identities. It also helps to identify factors affecting reporting patterns.

The new survey also captures experiences of repeated harassment with a specific question about whether the reported incident is part of a longer pattern of harassment. Previously this was captured only where reports from the same victims were noted or where reports contained qualitative references to other incidents.



# Conclusion

With the emergence of an emboldened racism in late 2016 associated with the American elections and Brexit, and an apparently growing anti-immigrant sentiment across Europe, it was expected that the number of reports submitted to iReport.ie would rise in this period. The increase is observable in the total figures, up to 246 from 190 for the previous period, and in an increase from 53 to 66 reports of racist media and on-line publications, from 79 to 98 reports of verbal abuse and an increase from 38 to 57 reports of discrimination. Levels of violence stayed relatively consistent with the previous period.

The increased number of reports submitted to iReport.ie in this period, and over the 3 years since iReport.ie was established clearly reflects the frustration felt by both people targeted by racism and those who witness it with the existing official systems for recording racist incidents of violence, abuse and discrimination. There is growing evidence of a consistent pattern of wilful miscommunication and refusal to record incidents by An Garda Síochána.

Levels of trust in Gardaí to address racism continue to be extremely low, and the high number of reports which indicate that the incidents are part of an ongoing pattern of racism, particularly those which have escalated to violence over a period of time, demonstrate that Garda efforts to tackle racism before it escalates need to improve. More than forty percent of all incidents reported were part of a pattern of repeated harassment. We describe above how the methodology in iReport.ie leads to undercounting of both incidents and criminal offences in these cases.

The impact of racism is evident both in the descriptions of the incidents reported, and in the

specific answers given to this question. Significant levels of fear have led to mental health problems, ongoing anxiety, depression, avoidance of public places and normal life, as well as loss of confidence and work and study opportunities. These are grounded in the real, frequent and direct experiences of those targeted. There is no doubt that world events have raised anxieties about victimisation, but the reports here demonstrate that those targeted by racism undertaken extraordinary work in managing their emotional and physical responses to victimisation in order to carry on with everyday life. The extent of the injuries, physical and emotional, which they experience, and the frequency with which they experience them, are challenging in the extreme, leaving those targeted feeling entirely exposed and unsafe.

The data presented in this period highlights the very real need for effective statutory responses to racist hate incidents, support for victims, and preventative measures in the cases of repeat harassment which make up such a large part of the reports. Action is needed to address the failings in the current criminal law, in the training, supervision and accountability of members of An Garda Síochána in dealing with racism, and in the provision of statutory support for victims. Discrimination in employment, housing and service provision, and particularly in public services, must be addressed through effective publication of information about support and resolution measures, lost through the recent changes described earlier, and through training and supervision of staff in public services to prevent discriminatory treatment and abuse.

**Dr Lucy Michael**

## What they have said about iReport.ie

"I would like to commend all involved in the production of this robust and comprehensive report . . . ENAR Ireland's work on iReport.ie is of value not only for documenting racism in Ireland but also for pointing the way to policy and legislative gaps and issues. It can be a useful tool for others globally struggling with similar issues".

**Anastasia Crickley, President of the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN CERD)**

"iReport.ie is very well done. It gives a thorough insight into the current situation and challenges and on top of that it is well written and accessible. I look forward to see how the project develops further and seeing its impact. FRA considers making a good-practice-box about the report in the up-coming annual report together with a similar initiative in Greece."

**Morten Kjaerum, Director, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)**

"The best way for everyone to help stamp out racism is to recognise and report it."

**Irish Examiner Editorial December 16th, 2013**

"The iReport.ie mechanism is an invaluable resource for those who experience racism, providing people a means through which they can document their particular experiences."

**James Carr, Dept of Sociology, University of Limerick**

"The iReport.ie Quarterly report is an important stage in exposing the extent of racism in our society"

**Ethel Buckley, SIPTU**

"ENAR Ireland's iReport.ie is an excellent example of the kind of monitoring and reporting of discriminatory practices that is needed in the EU at the moment. ... which will hopefully ... bring about improved protection mechanisms and remedies to victims".

**Dr Michael Privot, Director, European Network Against Racism**



Scan this code to report racist incident

### European Network Against Racism Ireland

37 Dame Street  
Dublin 2

Tel: 01 8897110

Email: [info@enarireland.org](mailto:info@enarireland.org)

Web: [www.enarireland.org](http://www.enarireland.org)  
[www.enar-eu.org](http://www.enar-eu.org)



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Be heard, make a difference and  
report racism at [www.iReport.ie](http://www.iReport.ie)

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